

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A connector device comprising:
a body portion having a stem and a bore with an end opening at each of two ends of the bore,
the bore defining a housing to receive one of two members to be inter-connected by allowing the one member to be housed within the bore and extend through each end opening,
~~and~~ a the stem portion being of substantially cylindrical form having a major axis disposed substantially perpendicular to the major axis of said bore defined by the body portion,
said stem portion being adapted to be received, in use, in a housing defined by a bore of a second of the two members to be inter-connected by the connector device, and said stem portion comprising in the outer surface thereof an annular groove having the major axis thereof coincident with the major axis of the stem portion and said annular groove being provided axially inwards from the distal end of the stem portion.

2. (currently amended) A connector device assembly according to claim [[1]] 15, wherein the stem portion is of a hollow tubular form.

3. (currently amended) A connector device assembly according to claim 2, wherein the wall thickness of the stem portion at an axial position aligned with the annular groove is substantially equal to that wall thickness of the stem portion at least at a position to one side of the groove.

4. (currently amended) A connector device assembly according to claim [[1]] 15, wherein the annular groove is of substantially uniform depth as considered in a circumferential direction of the groove.

5. (currently amended) A connector device assembly according to claim [[1]] 15, wherein the annular groove is of substantially uniform width as considered in a circumferential direction of the groove.

6. (currently amended) A connector device assembly according to claim [[1]] 15, wherein the groove is of a curved shape in cross-section.

7. (currently amended) A connector device assembly according to claim [[1]] 15, wherein the ratio of the axial length of the stem portion to the diameter of the stem portion lies in the range 2 to 0.5.

8. (currently amended) A connector device assembly according to claim 7, wherein said ratio is in the range 1.5 to 0.75.

9. (currently amended) A connector device assembly according to claim 8, wherein said ratio is substantially equal to 1.0.

10. (currently amended) A connector device assembly according to claim [[1]] 15, wherein the body portion provides an abutment surface at one end of the stem portion for contact, in use, by an end of a housing of said second of the two members to be inter-connected by the connector device.

11. (currently amended) A connector device assembly according to claim [[1]] 15, wherein the body portion defines a through-bore to receive one of two members to be inter-connected.

12. (currently amended) A connector device assembly according to claim [[1]] 15, wherein the annular groove at the surface of the stem portion has a width which is at least one quarter of the axial length of the stem portion.

13. (currently amended) A connector device assembly according to claim 12, wherein the width of the annular groove is at least one third of the axial length of the stem portion.

14. (currently amended) A connector device assembly according to claim [[1]] 15, wherein the stem portion and body portion are integrally formed from cast or molded material.

15. (currently amended) A connector device assembly for forming a structural interconnection between two members, said assembly comprising:

a connector device,

one of two members to be inter-connected, and

locking means selectively operable to inter-connect the connector device and said one of two members,

said connector device comprising a body portion having a bore defining a housing to receive a first of said two members to be inter-connected and a stem portion of substantially cylindrical form having a major axis disposed substantially perpendicular to the major axis of said bore defined by the body portion,

2,
(cont) said stem portion being adapted to receive, in use, in a second housing defined by a bore of a second of said two members to be inter-connected by the connector device,

said stem portion comprising in the outer surface thereof an annular groove having the major axis thereof coincident with the major axis of the stem portion,

said annular groove being provided axially inwards from the distal end of the stem portion, and

said locking means being supported by said housing of the second of said two members to lie either in i) a retracted position whereby the stem portion may move freely into and out of

said housing of the second member or ii) one of at least two locking positions in which the locking means extends into said annular groove, a first of said two locking positions being one at which the locking means inhibits axial movement of the stem portion outwards from said housing of the second member but allows relative rotational movement of the stem portion and housing, and a second locking position being one at which the locking means bears against the stem portion to inhibit both said axial and rotational movements.

16-20. (canceled)

21. (currently amended) A connector device assembly according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 15, wherein,

the stem portion further comprises an annular abutment face,

the housing defined by the bore of the second member, in use, abutting the abutment face and entirely extending over the annular ~~greve~~ groove,

the annular groove being apart from and intermediate the abutment face and the distal end.

22. (currently amended) A connector device, comprising:
a body portion; and
a stem portion, wherein,

the body portion comprises a through-bore dimensioned to receive a post, the through-bore being open at two ends to pass the post through each of the two ends,

a wall of the through-bore is provided with a screw threaded aperture to receive a screw for enabling the post to be secured axially within the through-bore upon tightening of the screw,

the stem portion is of a tubular form and has a major axis which extends perpendicular to a major axis of the body portion,

the axis of the stem portion is a major axis of a substantially cylindrical outer surface defined by the stem portion,

the substantially cylindrical outer surface of the stem portion comprises a recess in the form of a circumferentially extending groove, the major axis of the groove is coincident with the major axis of the stem portion,

the groove is curve shape in cross-section creating a curved annular depression in the substantially cylindrical outer surface defined by the stem portion,

the body portion provides an annular abutment face adjacent an inner end section of the stem portion, and

the groove is located apart from the annular abutment face.

23. (previously presented) The connector device of claim 22, wherein the body portion and the stem portion are integrally formed as a single cast piece.

24. (previously presented) The connector device of claim 22, wherein, the stem portion is of a hollow form with a cavity defined by the stem portion extending into communication with the through-bore of the body portion.

25. (previously presented) The connector device of claim 22, wherein, a radial thickness of a wall of the stem portion at the annular groove is equal to a wall thickness at a distal end of the stem portion and at an inner end of the stem portion lying between the groove and the body portion.
